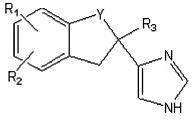
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 11-22, and amend claim 23, as shown below in the detailed listing of all claims which are, or were, in this application:

Claims 1-22 (Canceled).

23. (Currently amended) A method of administering a formulation comprising as an active ingredient a substituted imidazole ~~derivative~~ of formula (I)



(I)

where Y is $-CH_2-$ or -CO-, R_1 is halogen or hydroxy, R_2 is H or halogen and R_3 is H or lower alkyl, or an acid addition salt thereof, comprising

administering said formulation to a patient by ~~mucosal~~ oromucosal administration.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the active ingredient is 4-(2-ethyl-5-fluoro-indan-2-yl)-1H-imidazole or its acid salt.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said active ingredient is a hydrochloride salt of 4-(2-ethyl-5-fluoro-indan-2-yl)-1H-imidazole.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said formulation includes at least one additive selected from the group consisting of solvents, preserving agents, flavoring agents and mixtures thereof.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethanol, water and a mixture thereof.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the preserving agent is selected from the group consisting of methyl parahydroxybenzoate, propyl parahydroxybenzoate and a mixture thereof.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the flavoring agent is selected from the group consisting of aspartame, black currant and a mixture thereof.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said formulation comprises the following components: (a) 4-(2-ethyl-5-fluoro-indan-2-yl)-1H-imidazole or its acid salt, (b) ethanol and water, (c) methyl parahydroxybenzoate and propyl parahydroxybenzoate, and (d) aspartame and black currant.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the formulation is administered in the form of a spray, gel, a mucoadhesive buccal tablet or paste, or a sublingual tablet.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the formulation is administered in the form of a spray.